

THE ROLE OF ACADEMIC LIBRARY IN E-LEARNING: A CASE STUDY OF INSTITUTIONS IN EKITI STATE

MUHAMMED JAMIU SOLIUDEEN, BOLAJI IBRAHIM OMOLABI & RUFUS AYODEJI AMOS

Polytechnic Digital Library, Federal Polytechnic Ado Ekiti, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the role of academic Libraries in e-learning. Survey research technique and simple sampling procedure were used. A total of one hundred questionnaires were distributed. But only seventy two were returned.

The findings showed that the federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti has e-learning equipment and database to support e-learning. Federal University Oye Ekiti also has some databases and has digitized their collections. The Federal University Oye is also making use of social media to render library services. It was concluded that academic libraries need to put in extra efforts to they will not be left alone in the scheme of things. Based on this it was recommended that the Heads of library need to trained and retrained their staff so that they can know all that expected of them

KEYWORDS: Academic Libraries, e-Learning, Ekiti State, Institutions

INTRODUCTION

Academic Libraries are those found in academic institutions such as universities, polytechnics and colleges of education. They are meant to support the school's curriculum. Patergen and Branden (2014) were of the opinion that academic libraries have become digital libraries or e-learning often provide multimedia access centre. The convergence of publishing and internet have indeed afforded academic libraries a wide range of electronic resources and a large offer of online journals, electronic archive, newspapers, special collections and electronic book from multiple publishers.

On the other hand, Otubelu (2011) asserts that electronic learning or e-learning refers to computer enhanced learning. It is also refers to research learning and teaching in digital environment. Livonen (2005) and Rosenberg (2001) state that e-learning refers to the use of internet technologies to deliver a broad array of solutions that enhance knowledge and performance. It is based on three fundamental criteria:

- E-learning is networked which make it capable of instant updating, Storage / retrieval, distribution and sharing of institutions of information.
- E-learning is delivered to the end users via a computer using standard Internet technology.
- E-learning focuses on the broadest view of learning that is, learning Solutions that go beyond the traditional paradigm of training.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Livonen (2005) described library buildings as a centre on campus and the most important public learning space in any institution. The situation has not changed. Academic librarians are professional responsible for acquiring, selecting and

providing access to information/external knowledge for the whole academic community. He however identified the latest external knowledge which is increasingly available in electronic form such as e-journals, e-books and databases. Branden (2014) explains that information and communication technology has been introduced into higher education some decade ago. The internet originally developed for research purpose is commonly used in different education settings. As with each innovation, e-learning will never abandon traditional learning but, instead mixed form called blended learning will prevail. Charles (2011) opines that academic libraries should provide web based e-learning platform which has facilities to bring together the e-resources of various libraries and information services both internal and external all in one place so that users can find what they needed quickly and easily. This will create a virtual library where all academic institutions can share e-resources.

Shavinna (2001) describes ICT as all the digital technologies including computer, scanner, printer, telephone, internet, digital satellite system (DSS), direct broadcast satellite (DBS), packet-switching, fiber optic cables, laserdisc, microwaves and multi-media system for collection, processing, storage and dissemination of information all over the world.

Statement of the Problem

The librarians are professionals and responsible for the acquiring, selecting and providing access to information /external knowledge for whole of academic community. Livonen (2005) opines that the academic libraries can digitized printed existing material in libraries for e-learning. This brought about the reason why researchers are trying to study the efforts of academic libraries in this direction.

Justification for the Paper

The result of study will reveal the level of preparedness of academic librarians and their efforts toward supporting the e-learning initiative in their various institutions in Ekiti State. It will also beckon the heads of library attention to the change in learning which is taking place in their environment.

Purpose of the Study

The Purposes of the Study are as Follow

- To investigate whether those libraries has e-learning equipment.
- To find out which of the social media the libraries are using for library services delivery.
- To investigate whether academic libraries have digitized their collections.

Research Questions

- Which of the e-learning equipment do you have in your library
- Which of the social media do you use for service delivery in your library?
- What are the electronic databases in your library?
- Which of your library resources have you digitized in your library?

Research Methodology

The study employed a survey research technique. Four academic libraries were covered using simple random sampling. A total of one hundred questionnaires were self administered but only seventy two were returned. The librarians of those institutions and some experience library officers formed the target population.

Data Analysis and Discussions (Section A)

The study showed that out of 72 respondents, 46 staff representing (64 %) sixty-four percent were male while 26 respondents representing (36%) thirty-six percent were female.

The years of experience of the respondents ranged between 1 and 15 years and above. This is an indication that a greater percent of the respondents were familiar with library system and their activities.

Abbreviated Institutions

ABUAD- Afe Babalola University

ESCOE- Ekiti State College Of Education

FPA- Federal Polytechnic, Ado- Ekiti

FUOYE- Federal University Oye-Ekiti

Section B: E-Learning Equipment in the Library

VARIABLES	ABUAD		ESCOE		FPA		FUOYE		ABUAD		ESCOE		FPA		FUOYE	
	YES								NO							
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Slide/ Projector	1	2	5	7	19	26	5	7	14	19	3	5	1	2	21	29
Pictures	4	6	3	5	19	26	3	5	10	13	4	6	1	2	23	32
Maps	13	18	5	7	15	21	3	5	3	5	3	5	4	6	23	32
Photo Studio	2	3	3	5	17	24	5	7	13	18	5	7	2	3	21	29
DVD	1	2	2	3	20	28	7	10	13	18	6	8	0	0	19	26
Micro Opaque	1	2	2	3	15	21	5	7	14	19	5	7	4	6	20	28
Television	1	2	6	8	20	28	5	7	14	19	2	3	0	0	21	29
Video Player	0	0	2	3	19	26	8	11	15	21	6	8	1	2	18	25
Microfiche Reader	2	3	2	3	12	17	8	11	13	18	4	6	7	10	18	25
Computers	14	19	7	10	20	28	16	22	2	3	2	3	0	0	10	14
Scanners	11	15	6	8	19	26	21	29	5	7	2	3	1	2	5	7
others	18	25	4	6	14	19	22	31	8	11	4	6	5	7	4	6

Table 1 shows that 19 respondents representing (26%) twenty-six percent of the staff of Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti indicated that they have slide and projectors for teaching and e-learning. 5 respondents representing (7%) seven percent of staff from Federal University Oye Ekiti agreed that they have slide projector. Only one staff representing (2%) two percent from Afe Babalola University and 5 respondents representing (7%) seven percent from Ekiti State College of Education indicated that they have slide and projector. The Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti staff representing (26%) twenty-six percent indicated that they have pictures for the purpose of e-learning. Afe Babalola University has 6 percent while Ekiti State College of Education has (5%) five percent and Federal University Oye Ekiti has 3 staff representing (7%) seven percent. The Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti is the only institution that has photo studio, DVD duplicator, Micro opaque, Television, Microfiche reader, computers, scanner and other e-learning appliances.

VARIABLES	ABUAD		ESCOE		FPA		FUOYE		ABUAD		ESCOE		FPA		FUOYE	
	YES								NO							
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Facebook	14	19	1	2	4	6	25	35	0	0	7	10	16	22	0	0
Youtube	14	19	0	0	2	3	23	32	0	0	8	11	18	25	3	5
Google+	14	19	1	2	6	8	24	33	0	0	7	10	14	19	2	3
Whatsapp	7	10	0	0	3	5	24	33	7	10	8	11	17	24	2	3
Eskimi	8	11	0	0	2	3	25	35	6	8	8	11	18	25	1	2
Linkedin	8	11	0	0	3	5	23	32	6	8	8	11	17	24	2	3
Myspace	6	8	0	0	4	6	23	32	8	11	4	6	16	22	3	5
Tweeter	12	17	1	2	3	5	23	32	2	3	7	10	17	24	3	5
BBM	6	8	0	0	3	5	24	33	7	10	8	11	16	22	2	3
NLA Online forum	6	8	3	5	15	21	22	31	8	11	5	7	4	6	3	5
Hi5	4	6	0	0	1	2	20	28	9	13	8	10	20	28	6	8
Instagram	6	8	2	3	2	3	25	35	6	8	6	8	17	24	1	2
Others	1	2	1	2	3	5	25	35	7	10	12	17	6	8	1	2

Section C: Use of social media for Library services

From table2 shows that Only Federal University Oye –Ekiti has been using social media library services delivery. For example, 25 respondents representing (35%) thirty-five percent indicated that they are using facebook for library services, 23 respondents representing (32%) thirty-two percent indicated that they were using youtube. 24 respondents representing (33%) thirty-three percent indicated that they were using google+. 24 respondents representing (33%) thirty-three percent indicated that they were using whatsapp. Other social media which include Eskimi (35%) thirty-five percent, Linkedin (32%) thirty-two percent, Myspace (32%) thirty-two percent, tweeter (32%) thirty-two percent, BBM (33%) thirty-three percent, NLA online Forum (31%) thirty-one percent, Hi5 (28%) twenty-eight percent, instagram (35%) thirty-five percent and other institutions libraries have not started using them for their service delivery.

VARIABLES	ABUAD		ESCOE		FPA		FUOYE		ABUAD		ESCOE		FPA		FUOYE	
	YES								NO							
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
e-grannary	0	0	2	3	20	28	17	24	13	18	5	7	0	0	9	13
Science Direct	0	0	1	2	17	24	11	15	13	18	6	8	3	5	15	21
Ebscohost	0	0	0	0	20	28	13	18	13	18	7	10	0	0	12	17
OPAC	0	0	7	10	19	26	21	29	13	18	1	2	1	2	5	7
HINARI	0	0	0	0	2	3	24	33	13	18	6	8	18	25	2	3
AGORA	4	6	1	2	2	3	22	31	12	17	7	10	18	25	4	6
OARE	0	0	1	2	0	0	23	32	13	18	6	8	20	28	3	5
ARDI	3	5	3	5	4	6	20	28	13	18	7	10	20	28	6	8
TEEAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	28	13	18	7	10	20	28	6	8

Section D: Library Databases in Academic Library

It was shown from the table that the Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti some databases which include e-grannary (28%) twenty-eight percent, science direct (24%) twenty-four percent, Ebscohost (28%) twenty-eight percent, OPAC (26%) twenty-six percent. Federal university Oye Ekiti has HINARI (24%) twenty-four percent, AGORA (22%) twenty-two percent, OARE (23%) twenty-two percent, ARDI (20%) twenty percent, TEEAL (20%) twenty percent. Ekiti State College of Education and Afe Babalola do not have these databases.

VARIABLES	ABUAD		ESCOE		FPA		FUOYE		ABUAD		ESCOE		FPA		FUOYE	
	YES								NO							
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Books	3	5	4	6	12	17	26	36	11	15	3	5	8	11	0	0
Journals	12	17	3	5	14	19	24	33	2	3	4	6	6	8	2	3
Newspapers	4	6	7	10	7	10	15	21	10	14	3	5	12	17	1	2
Students' project	4	6	2	3	11	15	24	33	10	14	5	7	9	13	1	2

Section E: Library resources for Digitization

From the table, only Federal University Oye- Ekiti indicated that they have digitized their library materials, 26 respondents representing (36%) thirty-six percent indicated that they have digitized their books, 24 respondents representing (33%) thirty-three percent indicated that they have digitized journals. 15 respondents representing (21%) twenty-one percent indicated that they have digitized their newspaper while 15 respondents representing (24%) twenty-four percent indicated that they have digitized student's projects. Other institutions such as Afe Babalola University, Ekiti State College of Education and Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti are yet to digitize their collections.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The findings showed that only Federal Polytechnic Ado- Ekiti has e-learning equipment among institutions in Ekiti State. Federal University Oye Ekiti has been utilizing social media for service delivery in their library. The Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti has some library databases which include: e-granary, Ebscohost, science direct and OPAC. The Federal University Oye also has databases such as HINARI, AGORA, OARE, ARDI and TEEAL. The study also showed that only Federal University Oye Ekiti Has digitized their library collection.

CONCLUSIONS

The academic library in Ekiti state have been playing some roles in supporting e-learning, but the efforts seem to be inadequate. More efforts are required so that academic libraries will not be left out in the scheme of things. This is because there is a shift from traditional learning to e-learning and academic librarians too needs to move toward those directions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The academic librarians need to read more and wide on e-learning so that they will know what is expected of them.
- The heads of libraries needs to task librarians under them to get them familiar with the use of social media for effective library services
- There is the need for on the job training for academic librarians both within and outside the country.
- The academic libraries who are yet to get library databases should try to acquire and create awareness among teaching, non- teaching staff and students.
- All academic libraries should digitize their library collections for the purpose of e-learning and reaching out to larger audience.

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